

The formulations will also contain a floccing agent for the clay, such as about 0.1 to 5.0 parts by weight of polyacrylamide resin for every 10 parts attapulgite clay.

Joint compounds made in accordance with the invention have been found to approach the characteristics and qualities of prior joint compounds containing asbestos closer than any other known asbestos-free formulation.

Having completed a detailed disclosure of the preferred embodiments of our invention, so that others may practice the same we contemplate that variations may be made without departing from the essence of the invention.

We claim:

1. A drywall joint compound, said compound being free of asbestos fiber, and comprising as dry solids, by weight, from about 50 to 99 percent of fine ground powdered fillers of about minus 325 mesh particle size and other than attapulgite clay, from about 1 to 50 percent of a binder composition for said filler, from about 0.1 to 5 percent of a thickener other than attapulgite clay, from about 0.1 to 5 percent fine powdered attapulgite clay and a floccing agent for said clay in an amount of about 0.1 to 5.0 parts by weight for every 10 parts by weight of attapulgite clay.

2. A drywall joint compound as in claim 1 wherein said floccing agent is a polyacrylamide resin.

3. A dry powder joint compound formulation as defined in claim 1 comprising about 50 parts by weight fine powdered filler, about 1 part by weight polyvinyl alcohol, about 1 part by weight fine powdered attapul-

gite clay, about 0.1 part by weight floccing agent for said clay and about 0.5 part thickener.

4. A dry powder joint compound formulation as defined in claim 3 wherein said floccing agent is a polyacrylamide resin.

5. A ready-mix joint compound as defined in claim 1 wherein said dry solids are thoroughly mixed in a paste with sufficient water to produce a paste viscosity of about 400 to 700 Brabender units.

6. A ready-mix joint compound as defined in claim 5 comprising about 50 parts by weight fine powdered filler, about 6 parts by weight polyvinylacetate latex binder, a minor amount of plasticizer for said binder relative to the amount of said binder, about 1 part by weight attapulgite clay, about 0.1 part by weight floccing agent for said clay, about 0.5 part by weight thickener and about 40 parts by weight of water.

7. A ready-mix joint compound as defined in claim 6 wherein said floccing agent is a polyacrylamide resin.

8. A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 1 wherein said attapulgite clay has a particle size such that a major portion of the material is finer than about 0.2 micron.

9. The method of making a ready-mix joint compound as defined in claim 5 comprising the steps of placing a substantial portion of said water in a mixer first, adding the other ingredients except a substantial portion of the fine powdered filler second, after mixing thereof then adding the balance of the fine powdered filler, and then mixing all of the ingredients thoroughly.

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